



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Research Explorer

Whole-genome sequence-based analysis of thyroid function

Citation for published version:

Taylor, PN, Porcu, E, Chew, S, Campbell, PJ, Traglia, M, Brown, SJ, Mullin, BH, Shihab, HA, Min, J, Walter, K, Memari, Y, Huang, J, Barnes, MR, Beilby, JP, Charoen, P, Danecek, P, Dudbridge, F, Forgetta, V, Greenwood, C, Grundberg, E, Johnson, AD, Hui, J, Lim, EM, McCarthy, S, Muddyman, D, Panicker, V, Perry, JRB, Bell, JT, Yuan, W, Relton, C, Gaunt, T, Schlessinger, D, Abecasis, G, Cucca, F, Surdulescu, GL, Woltersdorf, W, Zeggini, E, Zheng, H-F, Toniolo, D, Dayan, CM, Naitza, S, Walsh, JP, Spector, T, Davey Smith, G, Durbin, R, Brent Richards, J, Sanna, S, Soranzo, N, Timpson, NJ & UK10K Consortium 2015, 'Whole-genome sequence-based analysis of thyroid function', *Nature Communications*, vol. 6, pp. 5681. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms6681>

Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

[10.1038/ncomms6681](https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms6681)

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Published In:

Nature Communications

Publisher Rights Statement:

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in the credit line; if the material is not included under the Creative Commons license, users will need to obtain permission from the license holder to reproduce the material. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact openaccess@ed.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



ARTICLE

Received 28 Apr 2014 | Accepted 27 Oct 2014 | Published 6 Mar 2015 | Updated 20 May 2015

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms6681

OPEN

Whole-genome sequence-based analysis of thyroid function

Peter N. Taylor^{1,*}, Eleonora Porcu^{2,3,4,*}, Shelby Chew^{5,*}, Purdey J. Campbell^{5,*}, Michela Traglia⁶, Suzanne J. Brown⁵, Benjamin H. Mullin^{5,7}, Hashem A. Shihab⁸, Josine Min⁸, Klaudia Walter⁹, Yasin Memari⁹, Jie Huang⁹, Michael R. Barnes¹⁰, John P. Beilby^{11,12}, Pimphen Charoen^{13,14}, Petr Danecek⁹, Frank Dudbridge¹³, Vincenzo Forgetta^{15,16}, Celia Greenwood^{15,16,17}, Elin Grundberg^{18,19}, Andrew D. Johnson²⁰, Jennie Hui^{11,12}, Ee M. Lim^{5,11}, Shane McCarthy⁹, Dawn Muddyman⁹, Vijay Panicker⁵, John R.B. Perry^{21,22}, Jordana T. Bell²², Wei Yuan²², Caroline Relton⁸, Tom Gaunt⁸, David Schlessinger²³, Goncalo Abecasis⁴, Francesco Cucca^{2,3}, Gabriela L. Surdulescu²², Wolfram Woltersdorf²⁴, Eleftheria Zeggini⁹, Hou-Feng Zheng^{16,25}, Daniela Toniolo^{6,26}, Colin M. Dayan¹, Silvia Naitza², John P. Walsh^{5,7}, Tim Spector²², George Davey Smith⁸, Richard Durbin⁹, J. Brent Richards^{15,16,22,25}, Serena Sanna², Nicole Soranzo⁹, Nicholas J. Timpson^{8,†}, Scott G. Wilson^{5,7,22,†} & the UK10K Consortium[‡]

Normal thyroid function is essential for health, but its genetic architecture remains poorly understood. Here, for the heritable thyroid traits thyrotropin (TSH) and free thyroxine (FT4), we analyse whole-genome sequence data from the UK10K project ($N = 2,287$). Using additional whole-genome sequence and deeply imputed data sets, we report meta-analysis results for common variants ($MAF \geq 1\%$) associated with TSH and FT4 ($N = 16,335$). For TSH, we identify a novel variant in *SYN2* ($MAF = 23.5\%$, $P = 6.15 \times 10^{-9}$) and a new independent variant in *PDE8B* ($MAF = 10.4\%$, $P = 5.94 \times 10^{-14}$). For FT4, we report a low-frequency variant near *B4GALT6/SLC25A52* ($MAF = 3.2\%$, $P = 1.27 \times 10^{-9}$) tagging a rare *TTR* variant ($MAF = 0.4\%$, $P = 2.14 \times 10^{-11}$). All common variants explain $\geq 20\%$ of the variance in TSH and FT4. Analysis of rare variants ($MAF < 1\%$) using sequence kernel association testing reveals a novel association with FT4 in *NRG1*. Our results demonstrate that increased coverage in whole-genome sequence association studies identifies novel variants associated with thyroid function.

¹Thyroid Research Group, Institute of Molecular & Experimental Medicine, Cardiff University School of Medicine, Cardiff University, Cardiff CF14 4XN, UK. ²Istituto di Ricerca Genetica e Biomedica (IRGB), Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, c/o Cittadella Universitaria di Monserrato, Monserrato, Cagliari CA 09042, Italy. ³Dipartimento di Scienze Biomediche, Università di Sassari, Sassari 07100, Italy. ⁴Center for Statistical Genetics, Biostatistics Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2029, USA. ⁵Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Nedlands, Western Australia WA 6009, Australia. ⁶Division of Genetics and Cell Biology, San Raffaele Research Institute, Milano 20132, Italy. ⁷School of Medicine and Pharmacology, University of Western Australia, Crawley, Western Australia WA 6009, Australia. ⁸MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit, School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, Oakfield House, Oakfield Grove, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2BN, UK. ⁹The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton CB10 1HH, Cambridge, UK. ¹⁰William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, London EC1M 6BQ, UK. ¹¹Pathwest Laboratory Medicine WA, Nedlands, Western Australia WA 6009, Australia. ¹²School of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Western Australia, Crawley, Western Australia WA 6009, Australia. ¹³Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London WC1E 7HT, UK. ¹⁴Department of Tropical Hygiene, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok 73170, Thailand. ¹⁵Lady Davis Institute, Jewish General Hospital, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3T 1E2. ¹⁶Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3T 1E2. ¹⁷Departments of Oncology and Human Genetics, McGill University, Montreal, Québec, Canada H3A1A5. ¹⁸Department of Human Genetics, McGill University, Montreal, Québec, Canada H3A1A5. ¹⁹McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre, Montreal, Québec, Canada H3A 1A5. ²⁰Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Human Genomics Branch, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, USA. ²¹MRC Epidemiology Unit, Institute of Metabolic Science, Box 285, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 0QQ, UK. ²²The Department of Twin Research & Genetic Epidemiology, King's College London, St Thomas' Campus, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH, UK. ²³Laboratory of Genetics, NIA, Baltimore, Maryland 21224, USA. ²⁴Facharzt für Laboratoriumsmedizin, Geschäftsführer amedes Ost, Halle/Leipzig GmbH, Leipziger Chaussee 191f, 06112 Halle (Saale), Germany. ²⁵Departments of Medicine & Human Genetics, McGill University, Montreal, Québec, Canada H3A1A5. ²⁶Institute of Molecular Genetics-CNR, Pavia 27100, Italy. * These authors contributed equally to this work. † These authors jointly supervised this work. ‡ Members of the UK10K Consortium are listed at the end of the paper. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to P.N.T. (email: taylorpn@cardiff.ac.uk) or to S.G.W. (email: scott.wilson@uwa.edu.au).

Thyroid hormones have fundamental but diverse physiological roles in vertebrate physiology, ranging from induction of metamorphosis in amphibians to photo-periodic regulation of seasonal breeding in birds¹. In humans, they are essential for adult health and childhood development^{2,3} and levothyroxine is one of the commonest drugs prescribed worldwide. Clinically, thyroid function is assessed by measuring circulating concentrations of free thyroxine (FT4) and the pituitary hormone thyrotropin (TSH); the complex inverse relationship between them renders TSH the more sensitive marker of thyroid status⁴. Even small differences in TSH and FT4, within the normal population reference range, are associated with a wide range of clinical parameters, including blood pressure, lipids and cardiovascular mortality, as well as obesity, bone mineral density and lifetime cancer risk⁵.

Twin and family studies estimate the heritability of TSH and FT4 as up to 65%⁶. Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) identified common variants associated with TSH and FT4^{7–9}; in a recent HapMap-based meta-analysis¹⁰, we identified 19 loci associated with TSH and 4 with FT4. However, these accounted for only 5.6% of the variance in TSH and 2.3% in FT4. Therefore, most of the heritability of these important traits remains unexplained.

The unidentified genetic component of variance might be explained by common variants poorly tagged by markers assessed in previous studies, or those with small effects. However, rarer variants within the minor allele frequency (MAF) spectrum might also account for a substantial proportion of the missing heritability as has been proposed for many polygenic traits¹¹. These variants, although individually rare (MAF < 1%), are collectively frequent, and while their effects may be insufficient to produce clear familial aggregation, effect sizes for individual variants are potentially much greater than those observed for common variants. In addition, a greater understanding of the relative proportion of thyroid function explained by common variants is now possible with the availability of whole-genome sequencing (WGS) and this is essential to refine future research and analysis strategies when appraising the genetic architecture of thyroid function.

In this study, the first to utilize WGS to examine the genetic architecture of TSH and FT4, we perform single-point association analysis in two discovery cohorts in the UK10K project with WGS data available and a meta-analysis using genome wide association data (GWAS) with deep imputation from five additional data sets. We report three new loci associated with thyroid function in healthy individuals, undertake quantitative trait loci and DNA methylation analyses to further study these relationships and undertake genome-wide complex trait analyses (GCTA)¹² to assess the contributions of common variants (MAF ≥ 1%) to variance in thyroid function. We also explore whether there is a shared polygenic basis between TSH and FT4. In individuals with WGS data, we perform sequence kernel-based association testing (SKAT) analysis to identify regions of the genome where rare variants have the strongest association with thyroid function and identify a novel locus associated with FT4. The results demonstrate that WGS-based analyses can identify rare functional variants and associations derived from rare aggregates. Larger meta-analyses of studies with WGS data are now required to identify additional common and rare variants, which may explain the missing heritability of thyroid function.

Results

Single-point association analysis. In the discovery study, using a meta-analysis of WGS data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) and TwinsUK cohorts

($N = 2,287$) analysing up to 8,816,734 markers (Supplementary Tables 1 and 2; Supplementary Methods), we find associations at two previously described loci for TSH. These are *NR3C2* (rs11728154; MAF = 21.0%, $B = 0.21$, s.e. = 0.037, $P = 8.21 \times 10^{-9}$; $r^2 = 0.99$ with the previously reported rs10028213) and *FOXE1* (rs1877431; MAF = 39.5%, $B = -0.19$, s.e. = 0.030, $P = 2.29 \times 10^{-10}$; $r^2 = 0.99$ with the previously reported rs965513). We find one borderline signal (between $P = 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$ and $P = 1.17 \times 10^{-8}$) at a novel locus *FAM222A* (rs11067829; MAF = 18.3%, $B = 0.210$, s.e. = 0.038, $P = 3.73 \times 10^{-8}$; Supplementary Figs 1a and 2; Supplementary Table 3). No variants show genome-wide significant association for FT4 (Supplementary Figs 1a and 3).

In a meta-analysis of the discovery cohorts and five additional cohorts, we find associations for 13 SNPs at 11 loci for TSH ($N = 16,335$) of which 11 loci have been identified previously and 4 SNPs at 4 loci for FT4 ($N = 13,651$) of which 3 have been identified previously (Table 1; Figs 1a–c, 2a, b and 3; Supplementary Figs 1b and 3–6).

To determine whether our identified associations at established loci represented previous association signals, we analysed the linkage disequilibrium (LD) between the strongest associated variants from this study and those from our previous study¹⁰ (Supplementary Table 4). The top variants from loci in both studies were in strong LD ($r^2 > 0.6$), apart from *MBIP* and *FOXE1*, although these were in strong LD with variants previously associated with TSH by others⁸. Two SNPs associated with TSH in our study are novel, one at *SYN2* (rs310763; MAF = 23.5%, $B = 0.082$, s.e. = 0.014, $P = 6.15 \times 10^{-9}$; Fig. 1a–c). *SYN2* is a member of a family of neuron-specific phosphoproteins involved in the regulation of neurotransmitter release with expression in the pituitary and hypothalamus (<http://biogps.org/#goto=genereport&id=6854>). We also identify one novel variant at *PDE8B* (MAF = 10.4%, $B = -0.145$, s.e. = 0.019, $P = 5.94 \times 10^{-14}$) in linkage equilibrium ($r^2 = 0.002$, $D' = 0.17$) with the previously described variant rs6885099 (ref. 10) and independent from our top SNP rs2046045 ($P = 1.93 \times 10^{-11}$) after conditional analysis. In the overall meta-analysis, we are unable to replicate the association between *FAM222A* and TSH in the discovery analysis ($B = 0.014$, s.e. = 0.015, $P = 0.378$); however, we observe evidence of heterogeneity between cohorts (test for heterogeneity $P = 4.70 \times 10^{-6}$; Supplementary Table 5), so potentially this locus may find support in future WGS studies.

In our meta-analysis, we also identify four SNPs associated with FT4, three at previously established loci (*DIO1*, *LHX3* and *AADAT*; Table 1; Fig. 3; Supplementary Figs 1b, 4e and 6; Supplementary Table 4). We find a novel uncommon variant at *B4GALT6/SLC25A52* associated with FT4 (rs113107469; MAF = 3.20%, $B = 0.225$, s.e. = 0.037, $P = 1.27 \times 10^{-9}$; Fig. 2a). *B4GALT6* is in the ceramide metabolic pathway, which inhibits cyclic AMP production in TSH-stimulated cells. However, the *B4GALT6* signal (rs113107469) is in weak LD ($r^2 < 0.1$, $D' = 0.66$) with the Thr139Met substitution (rs28933981; MAF = 0.4%) and it may therefore be a marker for this functional change in *TTR*. The Thr139Met substitution was associated with FT4 levels in our single-point meta-analysis ($P = 2.14 \times 10^{-11}$), however, was not originally observed as the MAF was lower than our 1% threshold. Conditional analysis of the *TTR* region using rs28933981 as the conditioning marker in the ALSPAC WGS cohort reveals no evidence of association between rs113107469 in *B4GALT6* and FT4 ($P = 0.124$; Fig. 2b). Analysis using direct genotyping in the ALSPAC WGS and replication cohorts confirms the effect of the Thr139Met substitution on FT4 levels. Here, 0.79% of children were heterozygous for the Thr139Met substitution, which is positively associated with FT4 ($B = 1.70$, s.e. = 0.17, 95% CI 1.37,

Table 1 | Independent SNPs with MAF \geq 1% associated with serum TSH and FT4 levels in the overall meta-analysis.

Gene	SNP	Chromosome	Position	A1/A2	Freq A1	Effect	Std Err	N	P	Het P
TSH										
CAPZB	rs12410532	1	19845279	T/C	0.164	-0.090	0.016	16,332	9.41×10^{-9}	0.003
IGFBP2	rs7568039	2	217612321	A/C	0.250	-0.122	0.014	16,335	2.11×10^{-19}	0.370
SYN2	rs310763	3	12230704	T/C	0.235	0.083	0.014	16,334	6.15×10^{-9}	0.252
NR3C2	rs28435578	4	149646538	C/T	0.227	-0.166	0.014	16,333	4.59×10^{-32}	0.109
PDE8B	rs2046045	5	76535811	G/T	0.414	0.142	0.012	16,334	4.05×10^{-33}	0.653
PDE8B	rs2928167	5	76477820	G/A	0.104	-0.145	0.019	16334	5.94×10^{-14}	0.994
VEGFA	rs6923866	6	43901184	C/T	0.280	-0.102	0.013	16,333	7.55×10^{-15}	0.646
VEGFA	rs2396084	6	43804825	A/G	0.287	-0.096	0.013	16,333	4.33×10^{-13}	0.422
PDE10A	rs3008034	6	166043862	C/T	0.312	-0.131	0.012	16,335	4.68×10^{-26}	0.084
FOXE1	rs112817873	9	100548934	T/A	0.323	-0.140	0.015	11,544	6.15×10^{-20}	2.02×10^{-6}
ABO	rs116552240	9	136149098	A/T	0.239	0.121	0.016	14,047	1.92×10^{-14}	4.11×10^{-4}
MBIP	rs116909374	14	36738361	T/C	0.043	-0.208	0.032	15,037	4.69×10^{-11}	0.179
MAF	rs17767742	16	79740541	G/C	0.354	-0.113	0.012	16,335	5.64×10^{-20}	0.447
FT4										
DIO1	rs2235544	1	54375570	A/C	0.499	0.154	0.013	13,650	5.23×10^{-34}	0.084
AADAT	rs7694879	4	170969799	T/C	0.095	0.137	0.022	13,650	4.15×10^{-10}	0.168
LHX3	rs11103377	9	139097135	G/A	0.496	0.087	0.013	13,651	1.44×10^{-11}	0.735
B4GALT6	rs113107469	18	29306737	T/C	0.032	0.223	0.037	13,649	1.27×10^{-9}	0.574

FT4, free thyroxine; MAF, minor allele frequency; SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism; TSH, thyrotropin.

Table shows the association results for SNPs that reached genome-wide level significance in the final meta-analysis. For each SNP, the best candidate gene is shown, as well as its genomic position, the effect allele (A1), the other allele (A2), the combined frequency of A1 across studies (Freq A1) the effect size (beta—change in standardized thyroid measure by allele) and its standard error (Std Err), the P value for association (P), the number of samples analysed (N) and the P values for heterogeneity of effects across the cohorts used in the meta-analysis (Het P). Entries in bold reflect novel identified SNPs.

2.03, $P = 3.89 \times 10^{-24}$). In the ALSPAC replication data set, rs113107469 in *B4GALT6* was also positively associated with FT4 ($P = 0.0002$); however, when conditioned on the Thr139Met substitution there was no longer any evidence of association ($P = 0.20$). The Thr139Met substitution also appears to be functional: this mutation has increased protein stability compared with wild-type transthyretin (TTR)^{13,14} and tighter binding of thyroxine¹⁴, resulting in a twofold increase in thyroxine-binding affinity^{15,16}. Further details of the likely genes related to all our observed independent novel signals are shown in Supplementary Table 6.

Expression quantitative trait locus analysis. Expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) analysis^{17,18} reveals that our SYN2 variant modulates SYN2 transcription in adipose, skin and whole-blood cells, but not lymphoblastoid cell lines (Supplementary Table 7). Furthermore, bioinformatics analysis suggests that the C-allele at rs310763 attenuates an EGR1 regulatory motif¹⁹. *EGR1* is expressed in thyrocytes, regulates pituitary development^{20,21} and may influence thyroid status via *LHX3* promoter activity²⁰. Several other variants in the SYN2 gene region are in strong LD ($r^2 > 0.8$) with rs310763, including the non-synonymous coding variant rs794999. Although predicted to be benign (PolyPhen-2 score = 0.002 (ref. 22)), rs794999 is located in a DNase hypersensitivity cluster²³, influences four predicted regulatory motifs¹⁹ and appears to be under evolutionary constraint^{24,25}. SNPs identified in our study, or those in LD, also showed strong eQTL associations with *PDE8B* ($P = 8.69 \times 10^{-27}$), *FOXE1* ($P = 9.10 \times 10^{-54}$) and *AADAT* ($P = 7.86 \times 10^{-9}$) gene expressions (Supplementary Table 7).

DNA methylation analysis. To further explore *cis*-regulatory effects of variants identified in our study, we carried out analysis of DNA methylation profiles in whole-blood samples in 279 individuals from the TwinsUK cohort. We find evidence for a methylation quantitative trait locus (meQTL) at the novel TSH-

associated variant rs2928167 in *PDE8B* ($P = 4.38 \times 10^{-7}$; Supplementary Table 8), which are also eQTLs in multiple tissues (Supplementary Table 7). Recently, meQTL effects using the same probe (cg16418800) in adipose tissue also identified a peak signal at rs2359775 ($P = 6 \times 10^{-15}$), which is in LD with rs2928167 ($r^2 = 0.5$). We find that variants in *ABO* ($P = 2.02 \times 10^{-23}$) and *AADAT* ($P = 1.80 \times 10^{-8}$) also show strong evidence for *cis*-meQTL effects (Supplementary Table 8). In additional analyses in 745 ALSPAC children, we find strong meQTL associations for rs2359775 in *PDE8B* ($P = 3.03 \times 10^{-28}$) and variants in *ABO* ($P = 1.01 \times 10^{-101}$) and *AADAT* ($P = 4.18 \times 10^{-34}$) (Supplementary Table 8).

SKAT analysis. Tests of the association between aggregates of rare variants (MAF < 1%) in the WGS cohorts were restricted to genes relevant to thyroid function. We find no evidence of association from SKAT analyses with TSH, however, for FT4 we identify one SKAT bin with multiple-testing-corrected evidence for association ($P \leq 1.55 \times 10^{-5}$) in *NRG1* ($P = 2.53 \times 10^{-6}$; Fig. 4; Supplementary Table 9). *NRG1* is a glycoprotein that interacts with the NEU/ERBB2 receptor tyrosine kinase, and is critical in organ development.

GCTA and polygenic score analysis. SNPs were thinned to a set of 2,203,581 approximately independent SNPs with an LD threshold of $r^2 > 0.2$, a window size of 5,000 SNPs and step of 1,000 SNPs. A genomic relationship matrix was then generated for unrelated individuals. We fitted linear mixed-effect models and estimate that all assessed common SNPs (MAF > 1%) explain 24% (95% CI 19, 29) and 20% (95% CI 14, 26) of TSH and FT4 variance, respectively ($P \leq 0.0001$; Supplementary Table 10). Polygenic score analyses²¹ based on SNPs with P values under a fixed threshold do not detect evidence of a polygenic signal for TSH or FT4, nor of a shared polygenic basis between thyroid function and key metabolic outcomes. However, a genetic score based on 67 SNPs previously associated with thyroid function in

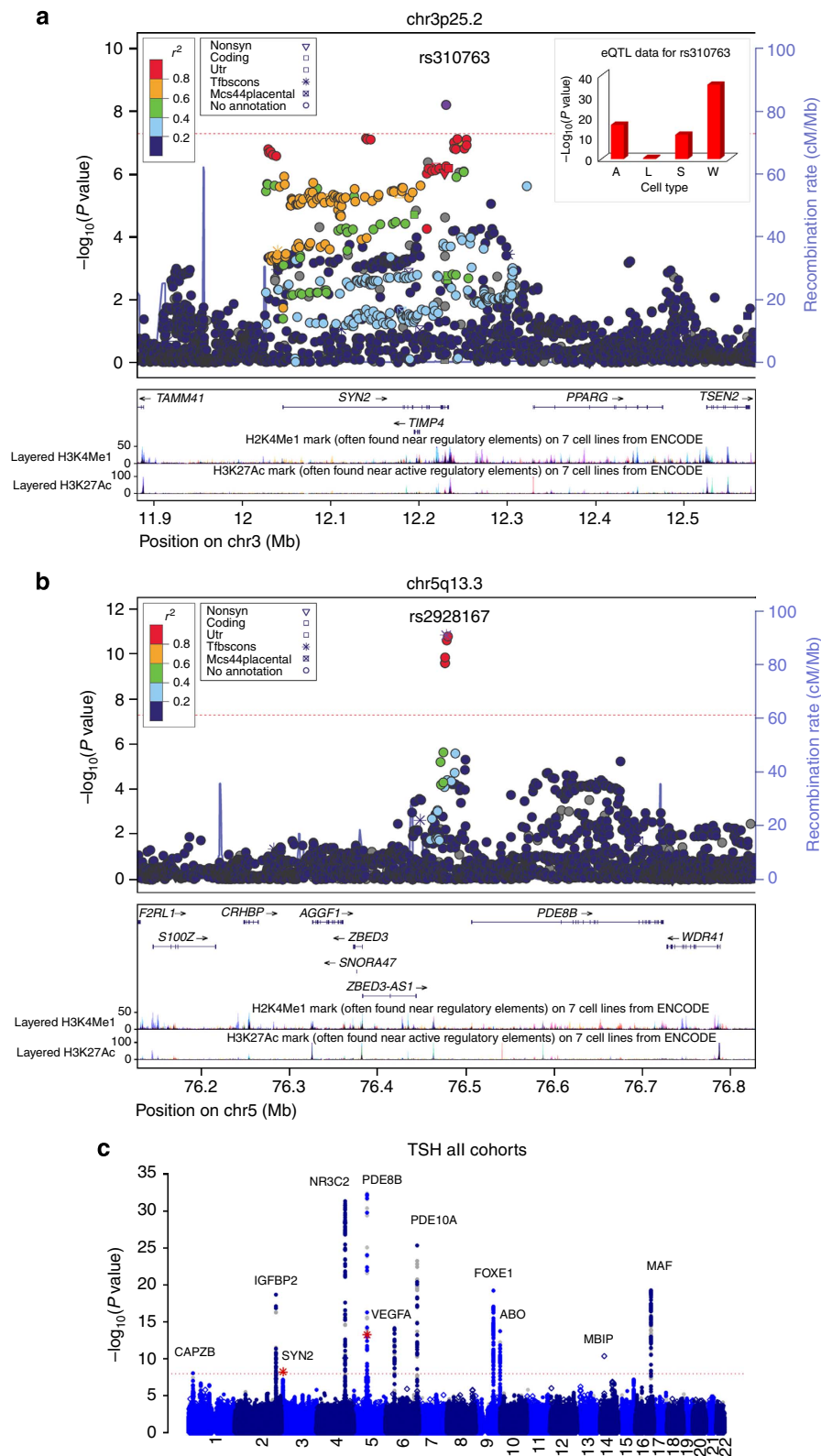


Figure 1 | Regional and genome-wide association plots for TSH. (a) Regional association plot showing genome-wide significant locus for serum TSH at the *SYN2*, *TIMP4* gene region. Inset is *in vitro* expression QTL data for the lead SNP rs310763 in adipose cells (A), lymphoblastoid cell lines (L), skin cells (S) and whole blood (W). Dotted line denotes genome-wide significance threshold. (b) Regional association plot after conditional analysis on rs2046045 in *PDE8B* showing our novel association with TSH at rs2928167 in *PDE8B* remained genome-wide significant. (c) Annotated Manhattan plot from the overall analysis for serum TSH levels. SNPs (MAF > 1%) are plotted on the x axis according to their position on each chromosome against association with TSH on the y axis (shown as $-\log_{10}(P\text{ value})$). The loci are regarded as genome-wide significant at $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$. Variants with 1% < MAF < 5% are shown as open diamond symbols. Common SNPs (MAF > 5%) are shown as solid circles with those present in Hapmap II reference panels in grey and those derived from WGS or deeply imputed using WGS and 1000 genomes reference panels in blue. SNPs shown as a red asterisk represent novel genome-wide significant findings.

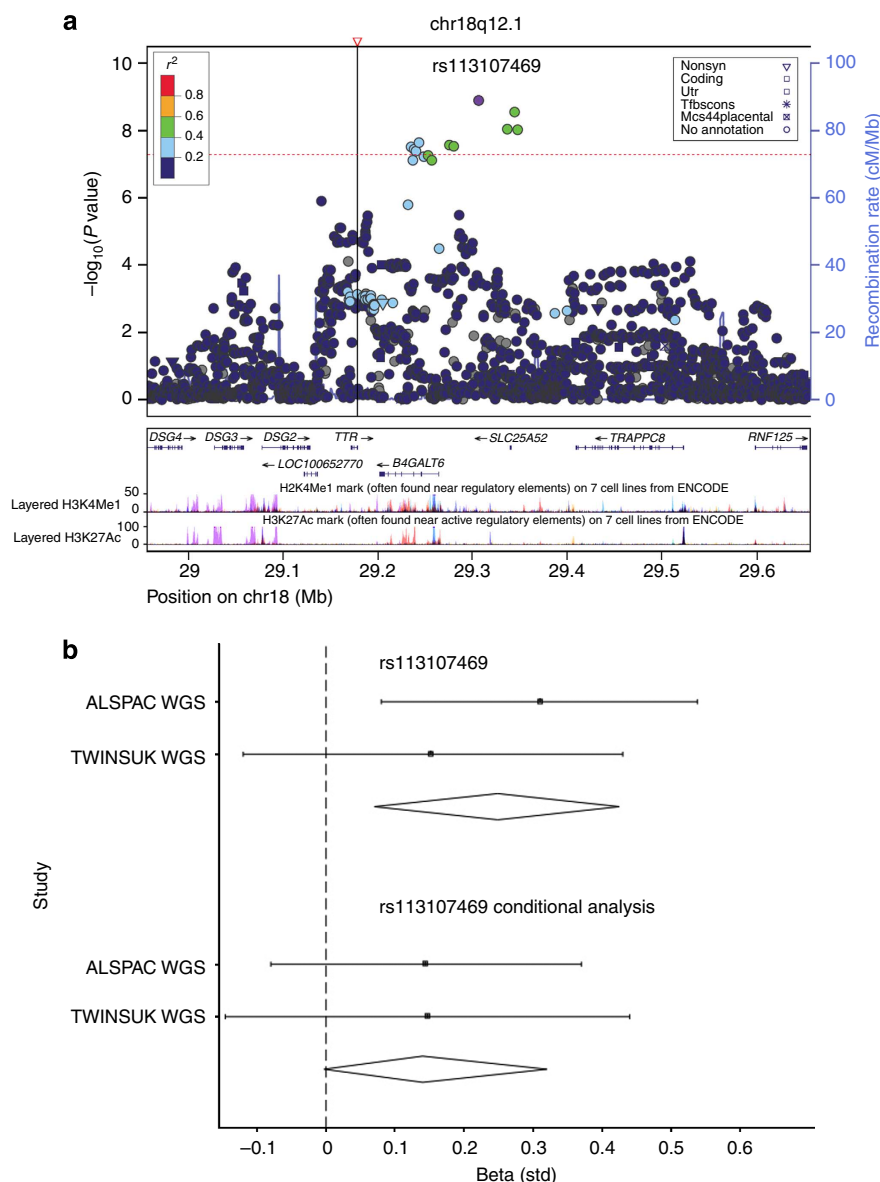


Figure 2 | Regional and conditional plots for FT4. (a) Regional association plot showing genome-wide significant locus for serum FT4 at the *B4GALT6*, *SLC25A52* region (overall meta-analysis). ∇ shows the location of the Thr139Met substitution (rs28933981; MAF = 0.4%) in *TTR*. Dotted red line denotes genome-wide significance threshold. **(b)** Forest plots of WGS association data for rs113107469 in the WGS discovery studies and meta-analysis, and below is the illustrating loss of signal on conditioning with rs28933981. Squares represent beta estimate and error bars represent 95% CI.

GWAS^{8,10,26} shows strong evidence of association with TSH ($P = 7.9 \times 10^{-20}$) and FT4 ($P = 2.7 \times 10^{-4}$) and we observe evidence of shared genetic pathways with TSH associated with the FT4 gene score ($P = 7.0 \times 10^{-4}$). These 67 SNPs explain 7.1% (95% CI 5.2, 9.0) of the variance in TSH and 1.9% (95% CI 1.1, 3.0) of the variance in FT4. Taken together, this suggests that many loci underlying thyroid function remain unknown.

Chemogenomic analysis. We undertook a database analysis of differential gene expression in cultured cells in response to hormone stimulation. We find *SYN2* (rank 64 of 22283 (HL60 cells)) rates highest among the genes studied in the experiment, providing strong support for the role of this newly discovered locus in thyroid metabolism. Two other genes, *NRG1* and *CAPZB*, also show evidence of levothyroxine responsiveness in at least one cell line²⁷ on the basis of a genome-wide differential expression and rank in the top 5th percentile (Supplementary Table 11). Publicly

available data on altered *SYN2* expression in brain, limb and tail from control and levothyroxine-treated *Xenopus laevis* during metamorphosis also provide evidence for the relevance of *SYN2* in thyroid function²⁸.

Discussion

In this study, we demonstrate the utility of WGS data (and SNP array data when deeply imputed to WGS reference panels) in appraising the genetic architecture of thyroid function. Using WGS data, we identify a rare functional variant in *TTR* that appears to drive the observed association between an uncommon novel variant near *B4GALT6* and FT4, and we demonstrate a novel association with FT4 arising from rare aggregates in *NRG1*. We also show that common variants collectively account for over 20% of the variance in TSH and FT4, a substantial advance on using only the 'top SNPs' from earlier GWA studies¹⁰. Taken together, this work indicates that both common variants with

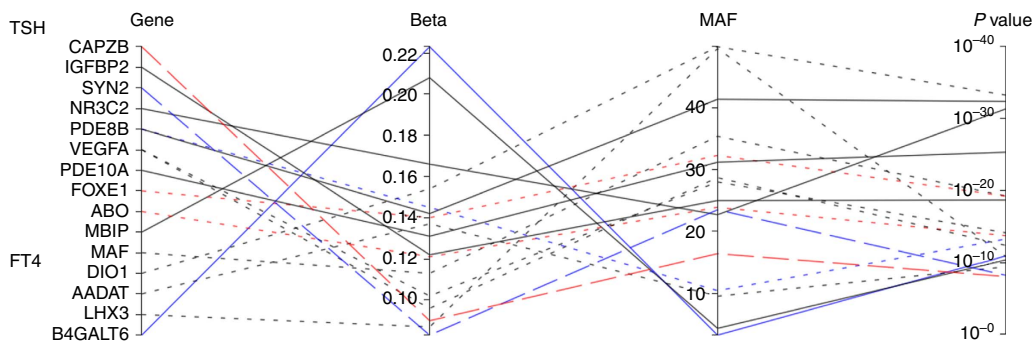


Figure 3 | Overview of our findings of SNPs associated with TSH and FT4. Blue coloured lines represent a novel signal identified in this meta-analysis. Red lines represent heterogeneity observed between the different cohorts in the association between the variant and TSH. --- Indicates responsiveness observed to levothyroxine. — Indicates observed eQTL or meQTL associations.

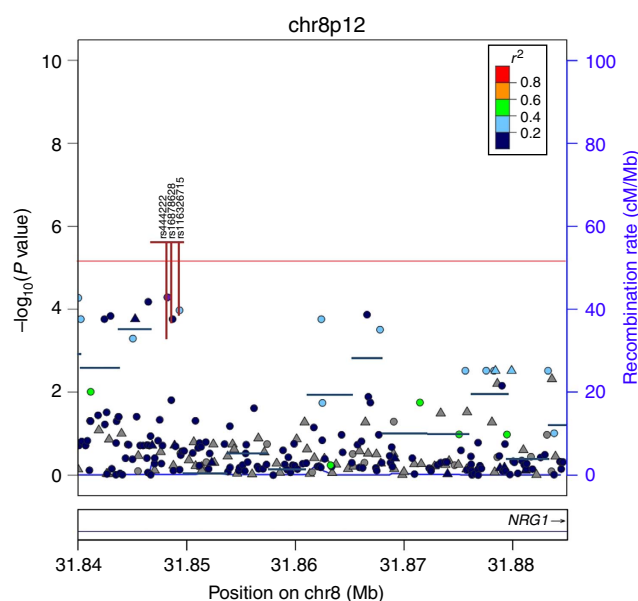


Figure 4 | Plots showing *NRG1* region with significant associations with FT4 from SKAT analysis. Horizontal bar represents SKAT variant bins. (●) = single-point association data. Vertical lines in the bin (|) highlight rare variants that contribute to the association with a contribution proportional to the length of the line (that is, removal of the variant from the analysis causes the significance to fall to the level shown).

modest effects and rare variants with larger effects might explain a substantial proportion of the missing heritability of thyroid function, but larger studies are required to identify these variants. Studies including individuals with subclinical thyroid disease, particularly those who are negative for thyroid autoantibodies, may be particularly rewarding, as rare genetic variants with large effect sizes may be associated with serum TSH and FT4 concentrations outside the inclusion ranges we used and therefore would not be detected in our analyses.

Such endeavours are clinically relevant, as there has been a dramatic increase in levothyroxine prescribing for borderline TSH levels²⁹. At least three loci identified in this study show evidence of responsiveness to levothyroxine in cell line models, underscoring that borderline TSH levels often reflect the influence of genetic variation rather than overt autoimmune thyroid disease, in which case thyroid hormone replacement may not be appropriate. Our results indicate that further

investigation of TSH heterogeneity at the population level is necessary.

Methods

Cohorts. Seven populations were used in this study. They are known as the TwinsUK WGS cohort, the TwinsUK GWAS cohort, the ALSPAC WGS cohort, the ALSPAC GWAS cohort, the SardiNIA cohort, the ValBorbera cohort and the Busselton Health Study cohort. Summary statistics of each cohort and full descriptions are given in Supplementary Methods, Supplementary Tables 1 and 2. All human research was approved by the relevant institutional ethics committees.

WGS data generation. Low-read depth WGS was performed in the TwinsUK and ALSPAC as part of the UK10K project. The SardiNIA cohort also had WGS data available (see Supplementary Methods).

Statistical analysis. An inverse normal transformation was applied to each trait within each cohort. Age, age², gender and any other cohort-specific variables (Supplementary Table 1) were applied as covariates. Genotype imputation was performed for relevant cohorts using the IMPUTE³⁰, MaCH³¹ or Minimac³² software packages, with poorly imputed variants excluded. See Supplementary Table 1 for cohort-specific details.

Single-point association analysis. Association analysis within each cohort was performed using the SNPTTEST v2 (ref. 33), GEMMA (genome-wide efficient mixed model association)³⁴, EPACTS (efficient and parallelizable association container toolbox) or ProbABEL³⁵ software packages. Cohort-specific quality control filters relating to call rate and Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium were applied (Supplementary Table 1). In our analysis, we assessed the change in standardized thyroid measure by allele using a MAF threshold $\geq 1\%$ and a genome-wide significance threshold of $P = 1.17 \times 10^{-08}$ (ref. 36). Meta-analyses were performed using the GWAMA (genome-wide association meta analysis) software³⁷, which was used to perform fixed-effect meta-analyses using estimates of the allelic effect size and s.e. Two meta-analyses were performed for each phenotype: a meta-analysis of the two UK10K WGS cohorts and a meta-analysis of all seven cohorts. The ValBorbera cohort does not have FT4 phenotype data, so this cohort was not included in the meta-analyses for this phenotype. In the meta-analyses, any variants that were missing from > 2 cohorts or with a combined MAF $\leq 1\%$ were excluded. However, in the discovery analyses, a MAF of 0.5% in either cohort was accepted to prevent marginal MAF dropouts; the MAF $< 1\%$ exclusion was then applied during the meta-analysis.

Conditional analysis. A conditional analysis was performed to identify independent association signals. Each study re-analysed significant loci using the lead SNP identified in the primary analysis (Table 1) as the conditioning marker. In cohorts where the lead SNP was not available, the best proxy was included ($r^2 > 0.8$). A meta-analysis was then performed on these conditional results, using the same methods and filters as described above. The standard genome-wide significant cut-off ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) was used to identify secondary associations.

Estimation of phenotypic variance explained by genetic variants. We undertook GCTA using WGS data in the ALSPAC and TwinsUK discovery cohorts and data from the SardiNIA and Busselton cohorts to estimate the variance explained by all common SNPs (MAF $> 1\%$) in the genome for TSH and FT4, using the GCTA method of Yang *et al.*¹² We fitted linear mixed-effect models to

estimate the phenotypic variance attributable to the common SNPs (h_g^2). In these data sets, SNPs were thinned to a set of 2,203,581 approximately independent SNPs using the *-indep-pairwise* option in PLINK with an LD threshold of $r^2 > 0.2$, window size of 5,000 SNPs and step of 1,000 SNPs. A genomic relationship matrix was generated for unrelated individuals, namely, those with genomic correlation < 0.025 . Estimates were calculated on SNPs filtered for Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium P value $\geq 1 \times 10^{-6}$ and MAF ≥ 0.01 . The genetic and residual variance components were estimated by the restricted maximum likelihood (REML) procedure for different MAF thresholds and for SNPs within a 250 kb window of known markers of thyroid function.

Expression quantitative trait loci analysis. Data for this study were available from a large-scale genetic association study of human gene expression traits in multiple disease-targeted tissue samples including subcutaneous fat, lymphoblastoid cell lines and whole skin, derived from 856 monozygotic (MZ) and dizygotic (DZ) female twins from the TwinsUK cohort, as part of the MuTHER project¹⁸. We interrogated only lead SNPs (or proxies in LD, $r^2 > 0.8$) using Genevar software¹⁷. For whole-blood eQTL studies, samples were obtained from a large population-based study³⁸. The whole-blood eQTL results were downloaded from the GTEx Browser at the Broad Institute on 26 November 2013³⁹. We identified alias rsIDs for significant index SNPs using JLIN software and UK10K WGS data. Associations at $P < 1 \times 10^{-3}$ were considered significant.

DNA methylation analysis. DNA methylation profiles were obtained in whole-blood samples from 279 MZ and DZ twins from the TwinsUK cohort using the Illumina Infinium HumanMethylation450 BeadChip. Illumina beta values were quantile normalized to a standard normal distribution and corrected for chip, order of the sample on the chip, bisulfite-converted DNA concentration and age. The resulting values were used for meQTL analysis, which was performed separately in two samples, first in 149 unrelated individuals from the TwinsUK WGS sample and second in 130 individuals with deeply imputed data from the TwinsUK GWAS sample. MeQTL analysis was performed for each sample in PLINK by fitting an additive model and meta-analysis across the two samples was performed in GWAMA, where we considered results without strong evidence for heterogeneity (Cochran's Q $P > 0.05$ and $I^2 < 0.7$). We analysed genotype data at 17 sequence variants (from Table 1), where for each variant meQTL analysis was performed with all DNA methylation array CpG sites located within 50 kb of the variant, resulting in 265 pair-wise tests. MeQTL results (Supplementary Table 8) are presented for variants with nominally significant associations in both the WGS and GWAS samples less than a meta-analysis P -value of 1×10^{-4} . In the *PDE8B* gene, we also considered meQTL effects at the eQTL rs251429 (Supplementary Table 7) and found nominally significant association with DNA methylation at CpG site cg16461538 ($B = -0.18$, s.e. = 0.08, $P = 0.02$). We assessed the association between DNA methylation levels at the CpG sites identified to harbour meQTLs in our study (Supplementary Table 8) and TSH and FT4 levels. Using the same study design as that adopted in the meQTL analysis, we obtained no nominally significant association between DNA methylation at the 11 CpG sites (Supplementary Table 8) for TSH or FT4 levels. Subsequent replication of meQTL associations observed in TwinsUK was performed in the ALSPAC cohort for which DNA methylation profiles from whole blood were available in 745 individuals. Here, data were rank transformed to follow the normal distribution and then regressed against batch number. Analyses were also performed using PLINK, adjusting for age, sex, top 10 PCs (genetic) and houseman-estimated cell counts (to account for cellular heterogeneity).

Rare variant analysis. We conducted GWAS candidate gene (*AADAT*, *ABO*, *B4GALT6*, *CAPNS2*, *CAPZB*, *DIO1*, *DIRC3*, *ELK3*, *FBXO15*, *FGF7*, *FOXA2*, *FOXE1*, *GLIS3*, *HACE1*, *IGFBP2*, *IGFBP5*, *INSR*, *ITPK1*, *LHX3*, *LOC440389*/*LOC102467146*, *LPCAT2*, *MAF*, *MBIP*, *MIR1179*, *NETO1*, *NFIA*, *NKX2-3*, *NR3C2*, *NRG1*, *PDE10A*, *PDE8B*, *PRDM11*, *RAPGEF5*, *SASH1*, *SIVA1*, *SLC25A52*, *SOX9*, *SYN2*, *TMEM196*, *TPO*, *TTR*, *VAV3*, *VEGFA*)-based analyses to test for association of the combined effects of rare variants on TSH and FT4 using SKAT-O software⁴⁰. This approach maximizes statistical power by applying both burden-based and SKATs. We used the TwinsUK and ALSPAC WGS data to examine loci with a known association with TSH and FT4. We examined all SNPs within the candidate gene regions, including variants within 50 kb on either side of the gene with MAF $< 1\%$ down to a MAF of 0.04% (in a cohort), or 0.02% (overall). These analyses used sequential non-overlapping windows each containing 50 SNPs. Association at $P < 1.55 \times 10^{-5}$ (Bonferroni corrected) was considered significant. For the meta-analysis of rare variant data from the WGS cohorts, we used SkatMeta⁴¹.

Polygenic score analysis. We conducted polygenic score analyses to test for substantive polygenic effects on TSH and FT4 and for a shared polygenic basis between thyroid traits and a range of related phenotypes including key cardiovascular traits, metabolic, anthropometric, endocrine and bone traits. Polygenic scores have been used to summarize genetic effects for an ensemble of markers that may not individually achieve significance but are relevant to regulation of the trait. The composite score represents an overall genetic signal and can then be used to

obtain evidence of a common genetic basis for related disorders⁴². We ranked SNPs by their marginal association with TSH and FT4 using the meta-analysis data set, with TwinsUK samples excluded (leaving $N = 13,874$ for TSH and $N = 12,561$ for FT4). SNPs were thinned to a set of 2,203,581 approximately independent SNPs using the *-indep-pairwise* option in PLINK with an LD threshold of $r^2 > 0.2$, window size of 5,000 SNPs and step of 1,000 SNPs. On the basis of their associations in the meta-analysis data, SNPs were selected for constructing polygenic scores according to a range of P value thresholds. Scores were then constructed for subjects in the TwinsUK data sets by forming the weighted sum of trait-increasing alleles, with the weights taken as the effect size in the meta-analysis data. To construct polygenic scores, we used 67 SNPs (rs10028213, rs10030849, rs10032216, rs10420008, rs10499559, rs10519227, rs10799824, rs10917469, rs10917477, rs11103377, rs113107469, rs11624776, rs116552240, rs116909374, rs11694732, rs11726248, rs11755845, rs12410532, rs13015993, rs1537424, rs1571583, rs17020124, rs17723470, rs17776563, rs2046045, rs2235544, rs2396084, rs2439302, rs28435578, rs2928167, rs3008034, rs3008043, rs310763, rs334699, rs334725, rs34269820, rs3813582, rs4704397, rs4804416, rs56738967, rs6082762, rs61938844, rs6499766, rs6885099, rs6923866, rs6977660, rs7128207, rs7190187, rs7240777, rs729761, rs73362602, rs73398284, rs737308, rs753760, rs7568039, rs7694879, rs7825175, rs7860634, rs7864322, rs7913135, rs9322817, rs944289, rs9472138, rs9497965, rs965513, rs966423 and rs9915657) that have been shown to be associated with thyroid hormone levels^{8,10,26}. The polygenic score was then tested for association with relevant thyroid and other phenotypes in the TwinsUK sample.

Chemogenomic analysis. To identify putative thyroxine-responsive genes among the candidate loci (*AADAT*, *ABO*, *B4GALT6*, *CAPZB*, *DIO1*, *FOXE1*, *IGFBP2*, *LHX3*, *MAF*, *MBIP*, *MFAP3L*, *NR3C2*, *NRG1*, *PDE10A*, *PDE8B*, *QSOX2*, *SLC25A52*, *SYN2*, *TTR* and *VEGFA*), gene expression data measured in response to levothyroxine treatment in a range of cell lines were retrieved from the Connectivity Map resource²⁷. We considered a genome-wide differential expression rank in the top 5th percentile among 22,283 probes as evidence of differential expression.

References

- Dumont, J. *et al.* Ontogeny, anatomy, metabolism and physiology of the thyroid. *Thyroid Dis. Manag.* Available at <http://www.thyroidmanager.org/> chapter/ontogeny-anatomy-metabolism-and-physiology-of-the-thyroid (2011).
- Haddow, J. E. *et al.* Maternal thyroid deficiency during pregnancy and subsequent neuropsychological development of the child. *New Engl. J. Med.* **341**, 549–555 (1999).
- Vanderpump, M. P. The epidemiology of thyroid disease. *Br. Med. Bull.* **99**, 39–51 (2011).
- Hadlow, N. C. *et al.* The relationship between TSH and free T4 in a large population is complex and nonlinear and differs by age and sex. *J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab.* **98**, 2936–2943 (2013).
- Taylor, P. N., Razvi, S., Pearce, S. H. & Dayan, C. M. A review of the clinical consequences of variation in thyroid function within the reference range. *J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab.* **98**, 3562–3571 (2013).
- Panicker, V. *et al.* Heritability of serum TSH, free T4 and free T3 concentrations: a study of a large UK twin cohort. *Clin. Endocrinol. (Oxf.)* **68**, 652–659 (2008).
- Arnaud-Lopez, L. *et al.* Phosphodiesterase 8B gene variants are associated with serum TSH levels and thyroid function. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **82**, 1270–1280 (2008).
- Gudmundsson, J. *et al.* Discovery of common variants associated with low TSH levels and thyroid cancer risk. *Nat. Genet.* **44**, 319–322 (2012).
- Panicker, V. *et al.* A locus on chromosome 1p36 is associated with thyrotropin and thyroid function as identified by genome-wide association study. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **87**, 430–435 (2010).
- Porcu, E. *et al.* A meta-analysis of thyroid-related traits reveals novel loci and gender-specific differences in the regulation of thyroid function. *PLoS Genet.* **9**, e1003266 (2013).
- Bodmer, W. & Bonilla, C. Common and rare variants in multifactorial susceptibility to common diseases. *Nat. Genet.* **40**, 695–701 (2008).
- Yang, J., Lee, S. H., Goddard, M. E. & Visscher, P. M. GCTA: a tool for genome-wide complex trait analysis. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **88**, 76–82 (2011).
- Alves, I. L. *et al.* Thyroxine binding in a TTR Met 119 kindred. *J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab.* **77**, 484–488 (1993).
- Sebastiao, M. P., Lamzin, V., Saraiva, M. J. & Damas, A. M. Transthyretin stability as a key factor in amyloidogenesis: X-ray analysis at atomic resolution. *J. Mol. Biol.* **306**, 733–744 (2001).
- Curtis, A. J. *et al.* Thyroxine binding by human transthyretin variants: mutations at position 119, but not position 54, increase thyroxine binding affinity. *J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab.* **78**, 459–462 (1994).
- Hamilton, J. A. & Benson, M. D. Transthyretin: a review from a structural perspective. *Cell. Mol. Life Sci.* **58**, 1491–1521 (2001).

17. Yang, T. P. *et al.* Genevar: a database and Java application for the analysis and visualization of SNP-gene associations in eQTL studies. *Bioinformatics* **26**, 2474–2476 (2010).
18. Grundberg, E. *et al.* Mapping cis- and trans-regulatory effects across multiple tissues in twins. *Nat. Genet.* **44**, 1084–1089 (2012).
19. Ward, L. D. & Kellis, M. HaploReg: a resource for exploring chromatin states, conservation, and regulatory motif alterations within sets of genetically linked variants. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **40**, D930–D934 (2012).
20. Yaden, B. C., Garcia, 3rd M., Smith, T. P. & Rhodes, S. J. Two promoters mediate transcription from the human LHX3 gene: involvement of nuclear factor I and specificity protein 1. *Endocrinology* **147**, 324–337 (2006).
21. Savage, J. J., Yaden, B. C., Kiratipranon, P. & Rhodes, S. J. Transcriptional control during mammalian anterior pituitary development. *Gene* **319**, 1–19 (2003).
22. Adzhubei, I. A. *et al.* A method and server for predicting damaging missense mutations. *Nat. Methods* **7**, 248–249 (2010).
23. Bernstein, B. E. *et al.* An integrated encyclopedia of DNA elements in the human genome. *Nature* **489**, 57–74 (2012).
24. Davydov, E. V. *et al.* Identifying a high fraction of the human genome to be under selective constraint using GERP + +. *PLoS Comput. Biol.* **6**, e1001025 (2010).
25. Lindblad-Toh, K. *et al.* A high-resolution map of human evolutionary constraint using 29 mammals. *Nature* **478**, 476–482 (2011).
26. Medici, M. *et al.* A large-scale association analysis of 68 thyroid hormone pathway genes with serum TSH and FT4 levels. *Eur. J. Endocrinol.* **164**, 781–788 (2011).
27. Lamb, J. *et al.* The Connectivity Map: using gene-expression signatures to connect small molecules, genes, and disease. *Science* **313**, 1929–1935 (2006).
28. Das, B. *et al.* Gene expression changes at metamorphosis induced by thyroid hormone in *Xenopus laevis* tadpoles. *Dev. Biol.* **291**, 342–355 (2006).
29. Taylor, P. N. *et al.* Falling threshold for treatment of borderline elevated thyrotropin levels—balancing benefits and risks: evidence from a large community-based study. *JAMA Intern. Med.* **174**, 32–39 (2013).
30. Howie, B. N., Donnelly, P. & Marchini, J. A flexible and accurate genotype imputation method for the next generation of genome-wide association studies. *PLoS Genet.* **5**, e1000529 (2009).
31. Li, Y., Willer, C. J., Ding, J., Scheet, P. & Abecasis, G. R. MaCH: using sequence and genotype data to estimate haplotypes and unobserved genotypes. *Genet. Epidemiol.* **34**, 816–834 (2010).
32. Howie, B., Fuchsberger, C., Stephens, M., Marchini, J. & Abecasis, G. R. Fast and accurate genotype imputation in genome-wide association studies through pre-phasing. *Nat. Genet.* **44**, 955–959 (2012).
33. Marchini, J., Howie, B., Myers, S., McVean, G. & Donnelly, P. A new multipoint method for genome-wide association studies by imputation of genotypes. *Nat. Genet.* **39**, 906–913 (2007).
34. Zhou, X. & Stephens, M. Genome-wide efficient mixed-model analysis for association studies. *Nat. Genet.* **44**, 821–824 (2012).
35. Aulchenko, Y. S., Struchalin, M. V. & van Duijn, C. M. ProbABEL package for genome-wide association analysis of imputed data. *BMC Bioinformatics* **11**, 134 (2010).
36. Xu, C. *et al.* Estimating genome-wide significance for whole-genome sequencing studies. *Genet. Epidemiol.* **38**, 281–290 (2014).
37. Magi, R. & Morris, A. P. GWAMA: software for genome-wide association meta-analysis. *BMC Bioinformatics* **11**, 288 (2010).
38. Emilsson, V. *et al.* Genetics of gene expression and its effect on disease. *Nature* **452**, 423–428 (2008).
39. GTEx Consortium. The Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) project. *Nat. Genet.* **45**, 580–585 (2013).
40. Wu, M. C. *et al.* Rare-variant association testing for sequencing data with the sequence kernel association test. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **89**, 82–93 (2011).
41. Voorman, A., Brody, J. & Lumley, T. SkatMeta: an R package for meta analyzing region-based tests of rare DNA variants. Available at (<http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/skatMeta>) (2013).
42. Dudbridge, F. Power and predictive accuracy of polygenic risk scores. *PLoS Genet.* **9**, e1003348 (2013).

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to all the participants in the cohort studies and the staff involved including interviewers, computer and laboratory technicians, clerical workers, research scientists, volunteers, managers, receptionists and nurses. This study makes use of the data generated by the UK10K Consortium. Funding for UK10K was provided by the Wellcome Trust under award WT091310. A full list of the investigators who contributed to the generation of the data is available at www.UK10K.org. Further acknowledgements from all the cohorts and details on cohort and investigator funding can be found in the Supplementary Methods.

Author contributions

Cohort collection was done by P.N.T., E.P., G.A., C.M.D., S.N., J.P.B., J.H., E.M.L., V.P., W.W., D.T., J.P.W., C.M.D., T.D.S., G.D.S., R.D., J.B.R., S.S., N.S., N.J.T. and S.G.W. Phenotype cleaning was done by P.N.T., E.P., S.C., P.J.C., M.T., S.J.B., B.H.M., S.S., N.S., N.J.T. and S.G.W. Genotype data processing and cleaning was done by S.J.B., J.M., K.W., Y.M., J.P.B., J.H., S.M., D.M., D.S. and E.Z. Genotype-phenotype association testing was done by P.N.T., E.P., S.C., P.J.C., M.T., S.J.B., B.H.M., H.A.S., M.R.B., P.C., P.D., F.D., V.F., C.G., E.G., A.D.J., J.H., V.P., J.R.B., J.T.B., W.Y., C.R., T.G., G.L.S. and H.-F.Z. Bioinformatics by S.C., P.J.C., B.H.M., S.J.B., J.M., K.W., Y.M., S.G.W., J.R.B.P., M.R.B., P.D. and F.D. Manuscript drafting was done by P.N.T., E.P., S.C., P.J.C., M.T., S.J.B., B.H.M., J.P.W., C.M.D., J.P.W., J.B.T., M.R.B., J.R.B.P., F.D., S.S., N.J.T. and S.G.W. All authors critically revised the manuscript.

Additional information

Supplementary Information accompanies this paper at <http://www.nature.com/naturecommunications>

Competing financial interests: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

Reprints and permission information is available online at <http://npg.nature.com/reprintsandpermissions/>

How to cite this article: Taylor, P. N. *et al.* Whole-genome sequence-based analysis of thyroid function. *Nat. Commun.* **6**:6681 doi: 10.1038/ncomms6681 (2015).



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in the credit line; if the material is not included under the Creative Commons license, users will need to obtain permission from the license holder to reproduce the material. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

The UK10K Consortium

Saeed Al Turki^{9,27}, Carl Anderson⁹, Richard Anney²⁸, Dinu Antony²⁹, Maria Soler Artigas²⁸, Muhammad Ayub³⁰, Senduran Balasubramaniam⁹, Jeffrey C. Barrett⁹, Inês Barroso^{9,31}, Phil Beales²⁹, Jamie Benthams³², Shoumo Bhattacharya³², Ewan Birney³³, Douglas Blackwood³⁴, Martin Bobrow³⁵, Elena Bochukova³¹, Patrick Bolton³⁶, Rebecca Bounds³¹, Chris Boustred⁸, Jerome Breen^{36,37}, Mattia Calissano³⁸, Keren Carss⁹, Krishna Chatterjee³¹, Lu Chen^{9,39}, Antonio Ciampi¹⁶, Sehattin Cirak^{38,40}, Peter Clapham⁹, Gail Clement²², Guy Coates⁹, David Collier^{41,42}, Catherine Cosgrove³², Tony Cox⁹, Nick Craddock⁴³, Lucy Crooks^{9,44}, Sarah Curran^{36,45,46}, David Curtis⁴⁷, Allan Daly⁹, Aaron Day-Williams^{9,48}, Ian N.M. Day⁸, Thomas Down^{9,49}, Yuanping Du⁵⁰, Ian Dunham³², Sarah Edkins⁹, Peter Ellis⁹, David Evans^{8,51}, Sadaf Farooqi³¹, Ghazaleh Fatemifar⁸, David R. Fitzpatrick⁵², Paul Flicek^{9,33}, James Flyod^{9,53}, A. Reghan Foley¹⁶, Christopher S. Franklin⁹, Marta Futema⁵⁴, Louise Gallagher²⁸, Matthias Geis⁹, Daniel Geschwind⁵⁵, Heather Griffin⁵⁶, Detelina Grozeva³⁵, Xueqin Guo⁵⁰,

Xiaosen Guo⁵⁰, Hugh Gurling⁴⁹, Deborah Hart²², Audrey Hendricks^{9,57}, Peter Holmans⁴³, Bryan Howie⁵⁸, Liren Huang⁵⁰, Tim Hubbard^{9,49}, Steve E. Humphries⁵⁴, Matthew E. Hurles⁹, Pirro Hysi²², David K. Jackson⁹, Yalda Jamshidi⁵⁹, Tian Jing⁵⁰, Chris Joyce⁹, Jane Kaye⁵⁶, Thomas Keane⁹, Julia Keogh³¹, John Kemp^{8,51}, Karen Kennedy⁹, Anja Kolb-Kokocinski⁹, Genevieve Lachance²², Cordelia Langford⁹, Daniel Lawson⁸, Irene Lee⁶⁰, Monkol Lek⁶¹, Jieqin Liang⁵⁰, Hong Lin⁵⁰, Rui Li^{15,25}, Yingrui Li⁵⁰, Ryan Liu⁶², Jouko Lönqvist⁶³, Margarida Lopes^{9,64}, Valentina Iotchkova^{9,33}, Daniel MacArthur^{9,61,65}, Jonathan Marchini⁶⁶, John Maslen⁹, Mangino Massimo²¹, Iain Mathieson⁶⁷, Gaëlle Marenne⁹, Peter McGuffin³⁶, Andrew McIntosh³⁴, Andrew G. McKechnie^{34,68}, Andrew McQuillin⁴⁷, Sarah Metrustry²², Hannah Mitchison²⁹, Alireza Moayyeri^{22,69}, James Morris⁹, Francesco Muntoni³⁸, Kate Northstone⁸, Michael O'Donnovan⁴³, Alexandros Onoufriadis⁴⁹, Stephen O'Rahilly³¹, Karim Oualkacha⁷⁰, Michael J. Owen⁴³, Aarno Palotie^{9,65,71}, Kalliope Panoutsopoulou⁹, Victoria Parker³¹, Jeremy R. Parr⁷², Lavinia Paternoster⁸, Tiina Paunio^{63,73}, Felicity Payne⁹, Olli Pietiläinen^{9,63,71}, Vincent Plagnol⁷⁴, Lydia Quaye²², Michael A. Quail⁹, Lucy Raymond³⁵, Karola Rehnström⁹, Susan Ring^{8,75}, Graham R.S. Ritchie^{9,33}, Nicola Roberts³⁵, David B. Savage³¹, Peter Scambler²⁹, Stephen Schiffels⁹, Miriam Schmidts²⁹, Nadia Schoenmakers³¹, Robert K. Semple³¹, Eva Serra⁹, Sally I. Sharp⁴⁷, So-Youn Shin^{8,9}, David Skuse⁶⁰, Kerrin Small²², Lorraine Southam^{9,64}, Olivera Spasic-Boskovic³⁵, David St Clair⁷⁶, Jim Stalker⁹, Elizabeth Stevens³⁸, Beate St Pourcien^{8,77,78}, Jianping Sun^{15,16}, Jaana Suvisaari⁶³, Ionna Tachmazidou⁹, Martin D. Tobin⁹, Ana Valdes²², Margriet Van Kogelenberg⁹, Parthiban Vijayarangakannan⁹, Peter M. Visscher^{51,79}, Louise V. Wain⁸⁰, James T.R. Walters⁴³, Guangbiao Wang⁵⁰, Jun Wang^{50,81,82,83,84}, Yu Wang⁵⁰, Kirsten Ward²², Elanor Wheeler⁹, Tamiaka Whyte³⁸, Hywel Williams⁴³, Kathleen A. Williamson⁵², Crispian Wilson³⁵, Kim Wong⁹, ChangJiang Xu^{15,16}, Jian Yang^{51,78}, Fend Zhang²², Pingbo Zhang⁵⁰.

²⁷Department of Pathology, King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh 11426, Saudi Arabia. ²⁸Department of Psychiatry, Trinity Centre for Health Sciences, St James Hospital, James's Street, Dublin 8, Ireland. ²⁹Genetics and Genomic Medicine and Birth Defects Research Centre, UCL Institute of Child Health, London WC1N 1EH, UK. ³⁰Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Psychiatry, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L7X3. ³¹University of Cambridge Metabolic Research Laboratories, NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre, Wellcome Trust-MRC Institute of Metabolic Science, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge CB2 0QQ, UK. ³²Department of Cardiovascular Medicine and Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, Roosevelt Drive, Oxford OX3 7BN, UK. ³³European Molecular Biology Laboratory, European Bioinformatics Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SD, UK. ³⁴Division of Psychiatry, The University of Edinburgh, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh EH10 5HF, UK. ³⁵Department of Medical Genetics, Cambridge Institute for Medical Research, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 0XY, UK. ³⁶Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, 16 De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF, UK. ³⁷NIHR BRC for Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry and SLam NHS Trust, King's College London, 16 De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF, UK. ³⁸Dubowitz Neuromuscular Centre, UCL Institute of Child Health and Great Ormond Street Hospital, London WC1N 1EH, UK. ³⁹Department of Haematology, University of Cambridge, Long Road, Cambridge CB2 0PT, UK. ⁴⁰Institut für Humangenetik, Uniklinik Köln, Kerpener Strasse 34, 50931 Köln, Germany. ⁴¹Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF, UK. ⁴²Lilly Research Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Co. Ltd., Erl Wood Manor, Sunninghill Road, Windlesham, Surrey GU20 6PH, UK. ⁴³MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics, Institute of Psychological Medicine and Clinical Neurosciences, School of Medicine, Cardiff University, Cardiff CF14 4XN, UK. ⁴⁴Sheffield Diagnostic Genetics Service, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TH, UK. ⁴⁵University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RH, UK. ⁴⁶Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Swandean, Arundel Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 3EP, UK. ⁴⁷University College London (UCL), Molecular Psychiatry Laboratory, Division of Psychiatry, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, UK. ⁴⁸Computational Biology and Genomics, Biogen Idec, 14 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142, USA. ⁴⁹Division of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics, King's College London School of Medicine, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT, UK. ⁵⁰BGI-Shenzhen, Shenzhen 518083, China. ⁵¹University of Queensland Diamantina Institute, Translational Research Institute, Brisbane, Queensland 4102, Australia. ⁵²MRC Human Genetics Unit, MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, the University of Edinburgh, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh EH4 2XU, UK. ⁵³The Genome Centre, John Vane Science Centre, Queen Mary, University of London, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ, UK. ⁵⁴Cardiovascular Genetics, BHF Laboratories, Rayne Building, Institute Cardiovascular Sciences, University College London, London WC1E 6JJ, UK. ⁵⁵UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California 90095, USA. ⁵⁶HeLEX—Centre for Health, Law and Emerging Technologies, Department of Public Health, University of Oxford, Old Road Campus, Oxford OX3 7LF, UK. ⁵⁷Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado 80202, USA. ⁵⁸Adaptive Biotechnologies Corporation, Seattle, Washington 98102, USA. ⁵⁹Human Genetics Research Centre, St George's University of London SW17 0RE, UK. ⁶⁰Behavioural and Brain Sciences Unit, UCL Institute of Child Health, London WC1N 1EH, UK. ⁶¹Analytic and Translational Genetics Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, USA. ⁶²BGI-Europe, London, UK. ⁶³National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Helsinki, Finland. ⁶⁴Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, Roosevelt Drive, Oxford OX3 7BN, UK. ⁶⁵Program in Medical and Population Genetics and Genetic Analysis Platform, The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02132, USA. ⁶⁶Department of Statistics, University of Oxford, 1 South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3TG, UK. ⁶⁷Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA. ⁶⁸The Patrick Wild Centre, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH10 5HF, UK. ⁶⁹The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Imperial College London, St.Mary's campus, Norfolk Place, Paddington, London W2 1PG, UK. ⁷⁰Department of Mathematics, Université de Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada PK-5151. ⁷¹Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM), University of Helsinki, Helsinki FI-00014, Finland. ⁷²Institute of Neuroscience, Henry Wellcome Building for Neuroecology, Newcastle University, Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH, UK. ⁷³Department of Psychiatry, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland. ⁷⁴University

College London (UCL) Genetics Institute (UGI), Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, UK. ⁷⁵ALSPAC School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, Oakfield House, Oakfield Grove, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2BN, UK. ⁷⁶Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB25 2ZD, UK. ⁷⁷School of Oral and Dental Sciences, University of Bristol, Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol BS1 2LY, UK. ⁷⁸School of Experimental Psychology, University of Bristol, 12a Priory Road, Bristol BS8 1TU, UK. ⁷⁹Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland 4072, Australia. ⁸⁰Departments of Health Sciences and Genetics, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 6TP, UK. ⁸¹Department of Medicine, State Key Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, University of Hong Kong, 21 Sassoon Road, Hong Kong, China. ⁸²Department of Biology, University of Copenhagen, Ole Maaløes Vej 5, 2200 Copenhagen, Denmark. ⁸³Princess Al Jawhara Albrahim Center of Excellence in the Research of Hereditary Disorders, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah 21589, Saudi Arabia. ⁸⁴Macau University of Science and Technology, Avenida Wai long, Taipa, Macau 999078, China.

Erratum: Whole-genome sequence-based analysis of thyroid function

Peter N. Taylor, Eleonora Porcu, Shelby Chew, Purdey J. Campbell, Michela Traglia, Suzanne J. Brown, Benjamin H. Mullin, Hashem A. Shihab, Josine Min, Klaudia Walter, Yasin Memari, Jie Huang, Michael R. Barnes, John P. Beilby, Pimphen Charoen, Petr Danecek, Frank Dudbridge, Vincenzo Forgetta, Celia Greenwood, Elin Grundberg, Andrew D. Johnson, Jennie Hui, Ee M. Lim, Shane McCarthy, Dawn Muddyman, Vijay Panicker, John R.B. Perry, Jordana T. Bell, Wei Yuan, Caroline Relton, Tom Gaunt, David Schlessinger, Goncalo Abecasis, Francesco Cucca, Gabriela L. Surdulescu, Wolfram Woltersdorf, Eleftheria Zeggini, Hou-Feng Zheng, Daniela Toniolo, Colin M. Dayan, Silvia Naitza, John P. Walsh, Tim Spector, George Davey Smith, Richard Durbin, J. Brent Richards, Serena Sanna, Nicole Soranzo, Nicholas J. Timpson, Scott G. Wilson & the UK10K Consortium

Nature Communications 6:5681 doi: 10.1038/ncomms6681 (2015); Published 6 Mar 2015; Updated 20 May 2015

The original version of this Article noted incorrect affiliations for members of the UK10K Consortium, and contained typographical errors in the spelling of the UK10K Consortium and consortium members Valentina Iotchkova and Michael Quail. In addition, the author J. Brent Richards was incorrectly duplicated in the list of consortium members as Brent Richards. These errors have now been corrected in the PDF and HTML versions of this article.